12, 1991 and submitted a memorandum regarding their demands; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) A Memorandum dated 10 November 1991 has been received in the Ministry of Defence from the Veterans (World II) Coordinating Cell requesting for grant of pension to World War II Retrenchees. Since the World War II Retrenchees were engaged for short periods ranging from 2—6 years and did not have the requisite qualifying service for pension, they are not eligible for pension. Several States have, however, instituted schemes for grant of old-age pension to the needy persons. These schemes cover the World War II Veterans also. In addition, requests of such veterans for grant of financial assistance from Welfare Funds at the disposal of Ministry of Defence/Services Headquarters are also sympathetically considered.

One rank-one pension of ex-servicemen

702. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 330 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted the principle of one rank-one pension for the armed forces pensioners;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) what is the financial implication of the scheme; and

(d) whether Government have ensured betterment of lowest paid pensioner under the scheme and if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The Government has constituted a High Level Empowered Committee to comprehensively review the difficulties faced by pre-1.1.86. Defence Pensioners and *interalia*, examine the demand for 'One Rank-One Pension'. The Committee is required to submit its report by 31.12.91.

The Government is fully seized of the problems faced by the lowest paid pensioners. It has been Govt's constant endeavour to better the lot of the lowest paid segments of Govt. employees/ pensioners.

Realisation of Government Funds by Cantonment Boards under Central Command

703. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Cantonment Boards under the Central Command have been neglecting realisation of Government dues from various sections of the society within the limits of such Cantonments;

(b) whether the Director of Defence States have received several representations including legal notices on such failures of concerned Boards pertaining to assessment of house-taxes, realisation of correctly assessed STR on leases and consequent failures in the matters of services and insanitation etc., during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. Cantonment Boards are not responsible for collection of Government dues.

(b) to (d) Director General, Defence Estates has received a complaint dated 20-11-1991 from one Shri Ram Babu Misra, Advocate, Kanpur, addressed to Director Defence Estates, Central Com-

mand, alleging the matters listed in the Question. Director Defence Estates, Central Command has been directed to look into the complaint and furnish a report.

Incidents of unprovoked firing by Pak Troops across line of actual control

704. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of incidents of unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops across the line of actual control during each month from September to November, 1991;

(b) the number of persons including women, children and other civilians killed/injured in these incidents; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Exchange of fire between the Pakistani and the Indian troops across the Line of Control is virtually endemic in nature. There were 237 such incidents in September, 200 in October, and 98 upto the 20th November, 1991. The number of civilian casualities in these incidents have been as follows:

Month	Killed	Wounded
September, 1991	5	19
October, 1991	—	2
November, 1991 (Upto 20th)	—	—

(c) In order to de-escalate the situation, an understanding was reached between the Directors General of Military Operations of the two countries not to use heavy calibre weapons from the 16th October 1991. Except for a serious incident of firing by Pakistani troops using heavy calibre weapons which took place in the Kargil Sector on the 24-25th October, 1991, there appears a general decline in the incidents/volume of fire exchanged between the two sides since then.

HAL's egotiations with Boeing Group for manufacture of supersonic Transport Aircraft

705. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has been negotiating with the Boeing Group for the manufacture of supersonic transport aircraft;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the salient features of the proposed aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No Sir,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Attack by Pakistani Forces in Kargil Sector of P&K

706. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH:
SHR KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major attack was made by Pakistan military forces on Indian military base in the Kargil sector in Kashmir on the 26th October, 1991;

(b) what kind of weapons were used by Pakistani forces in the above attack;

(c) what is the number of casulaties on both the Indian and Pakistan side;

(d) whether the above attack by Pakistan was a violation of recent Islamabad accord; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to strengthen Indo-Pak border areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) There was no incident on the 26th Oct. 91. However, there was a serious incident